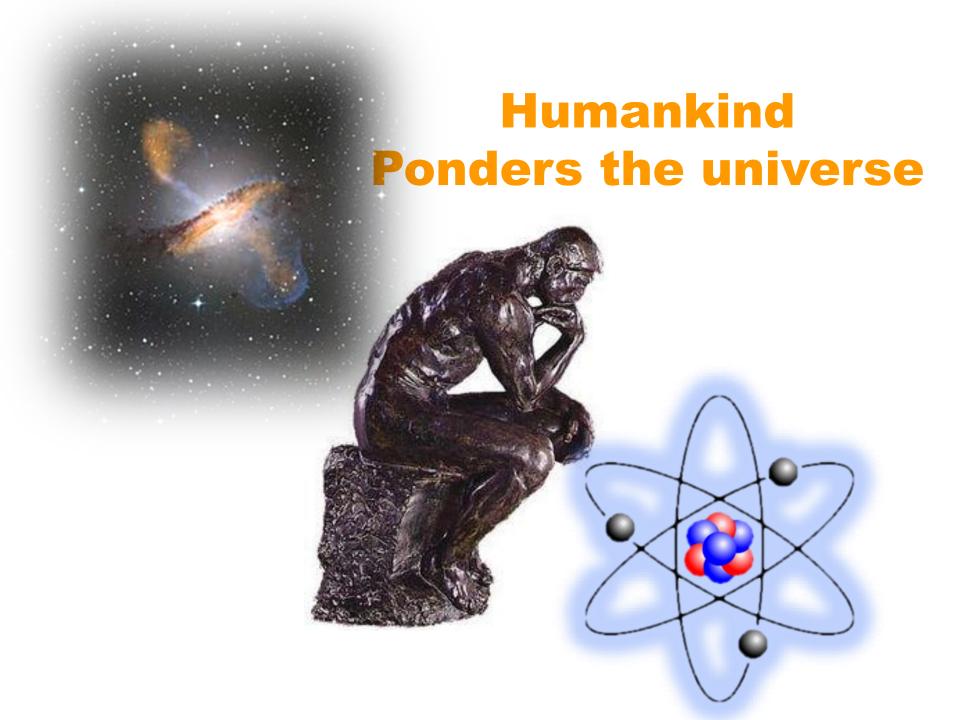


studying the universe's highest energy particles

# The Highest Energy Cosmic Rays

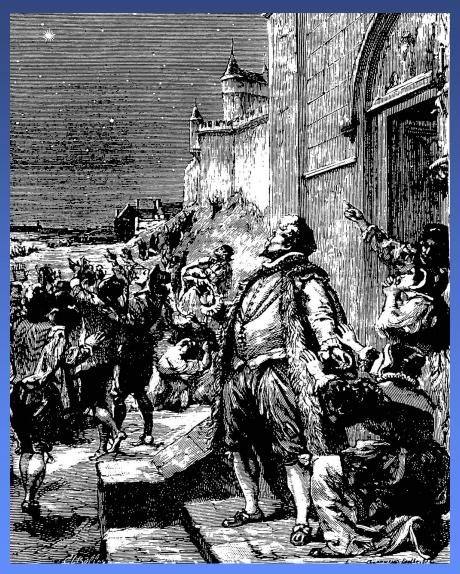
Mysterious Messengers
from a
Violent Universe

Paul Mantsch Scientist Emeritus - Fermilab



### **Pondering the Universe**

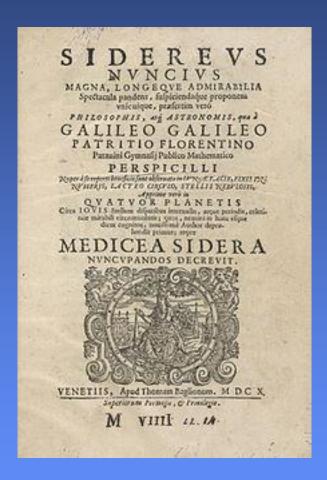
What is the universe made of?
What are we made of?
What is matter?
What is gravity?
How did the universe form
and evolve?



Tycho Brahe 1572

### **Searching for answers**





Galileo Galilei

The Starry Messenger - 1610

### Why should we care?

We are made of stuff of our universe Moreover - scientific knowledge of

natural world molds our lives.

## The power of science



- 1. Observation
- 2. Theory
- 3. Test
- 4. new understanding
- 5. Back to 1

Scientist at work

## At Fermilab we explore:

Depths of the atom









# **Exploring the mysteries**of the universe **These are exciting times!**

**Higgs Boson** 

(nature of mass)

**Gravitational Waves** 

(ripples in spacetime)

Dark Matter / Dark Energy

(stuff of the universe)

Particles from space

(cosmic messengers)

# Victor Hess discovered particles from space



Victor Hess flies over the Alps - 1912

# Natural Radiation is all around us (rays and particles)

**Electro-magnetic radiation** 

Infrared light

Visible light

**Ultraviolet light** 

**Gamma rays** 

Natural radioactive decay (radium, radon, potassium etc.)

Beta particles (electrons)

Alpha particles

**Neutrinos** 

Cosmic particles from space

# The highest energy cosmic rays – mysterious messengers from the cosmos

# The most energetic particles observed in nature!

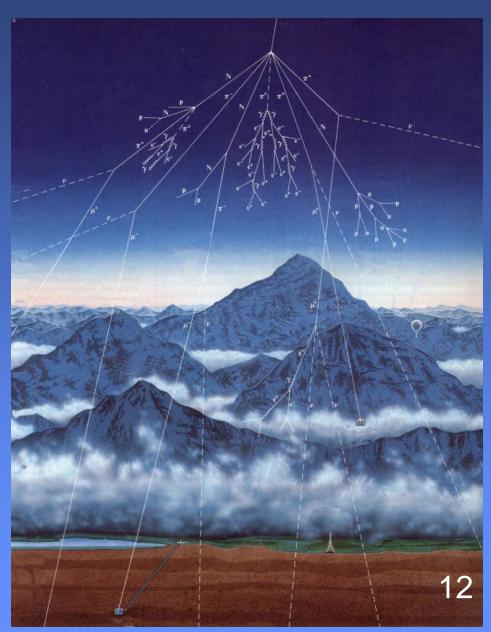
What are cosmic rays?
Where to do they come from?
How do some get such enormous energy?
What do they tell us about violent cosmic processes?
What can they tell us about ourselves?

### **Observing cosmic rays**

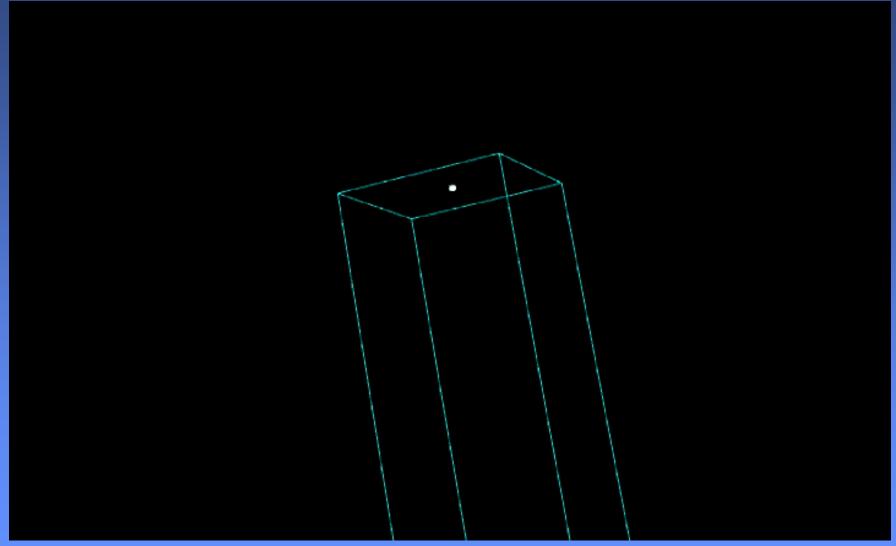
#### **Air showers**

-Cosmic Rays smash into molecules in the atmosphere making many new particles -Millions of particles at the earth

The atmospheric protects us.

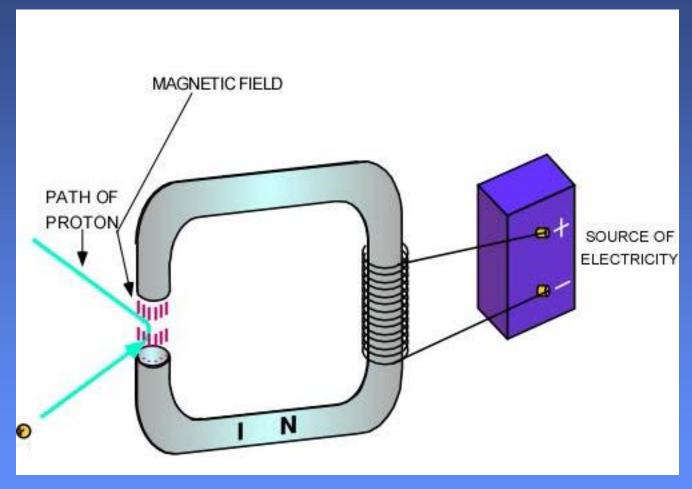


#### A simulated high energy cosmic ray shower



Cosmus: Randy Landsberg, Dinoj Surendran, and Mark SubbaRao (U of Chicago / Adler Planetarium)

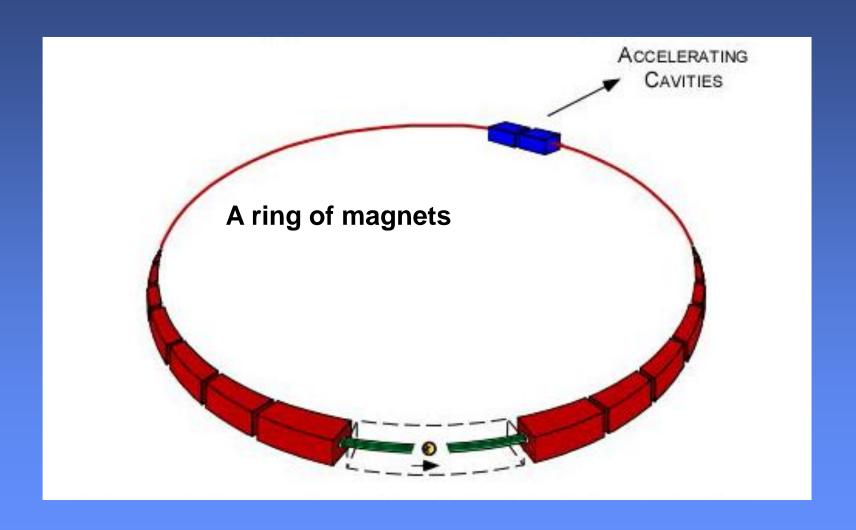
# What is a Particle Accelerator? How they work



Moving charged particles are bent by magnetic fields

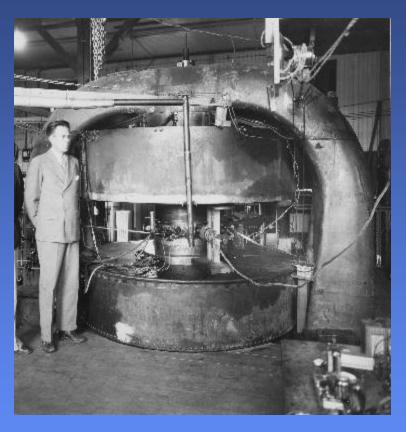
### **Particle Accelerators**

#### How they work



### Particle accelerators

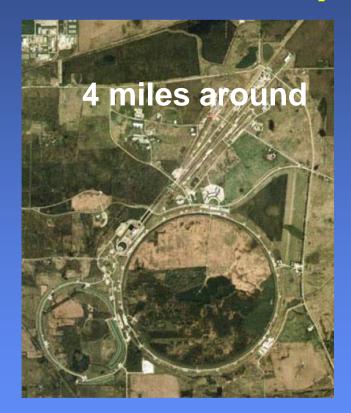




Ernest Lawrence's first cyclotron - 1930's

# Just how energetic are these particles from space?

### Modern particle accelerators



Tevatron at Fermilab - 10<sup>12</sup>eV



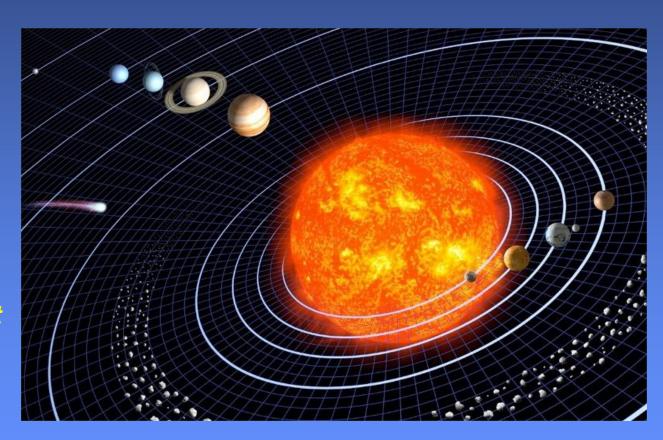
LHC CERN Geneva-7x10<sup>12</sup> eV

# Just how energetic are these particles from space?

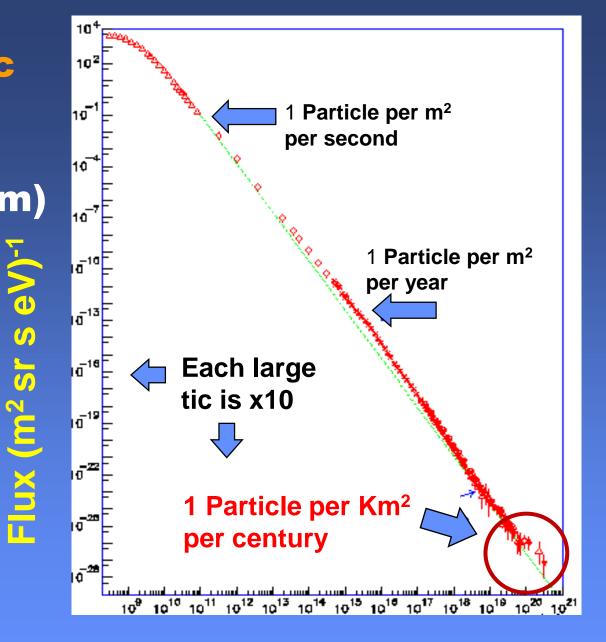
The highest energy cosmic rays – 10<sup>20</sup> eV

(1,000,000 times more energetic)

Present technology would require an accelerator the diameter of the orbit of Mercury

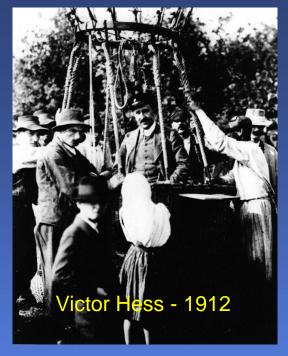


The cosmic rays from space- (the spectrum)



Energy (eV)

# **Adventures in Cosmic Ray Physics**





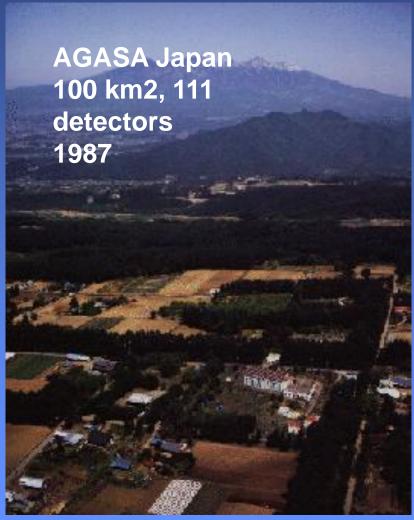




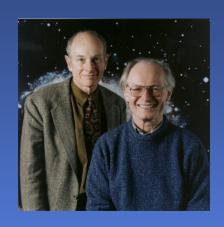
# More, bigger cosmic ray detectors



High Resolution Fly's Eye Utah Telescopes 1981



# **Building the Pierre Auger Observatory**



Jim Cronin and Alan Watson – the concept - 1991



The Gian*t Array Workshop*Fermilab - February to July, 1995

# **The Auger Collaboration**

90 Institutions, >450 Collaborators



**Argentina** Australia Bolivia\* Brazil **Czech Republic** France Germany Italy Mexico

**Netherlands** Poland **Portugal** Slovenia **Spain United Kingdom** USA Vietnam\* associate





#### **A Model for International Science**

# True International Partnership No country, region or institution dominates



### **The Observatory Site**

Mendoza
Province,

Argentina
(Near the city of Malargüe)



### Raising funds

Lafalla con el Premio Nobel Cronin, Menem y Decibe

# Todos ponen para el observatorio

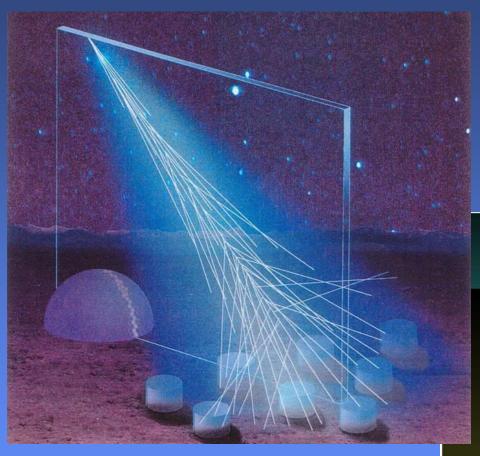


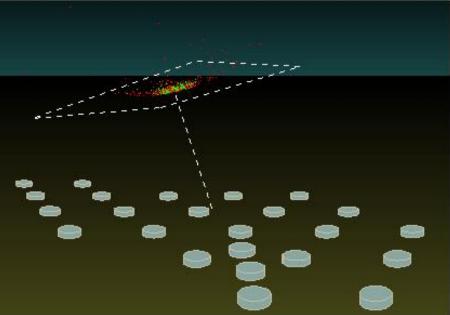
El gobierno nacional participará con diez millones de pesos del observatorio de rayos cósmicos que se instalará en Mendoza. La Provincia aportará otros cinco. Hay 19 países en el proyecto. (Información en página 2, 2a. sección)

**Jim Cronin and Alan** Watson toured the world promoting the project

## The Design

Surface detector array + Air fluorescence detectors

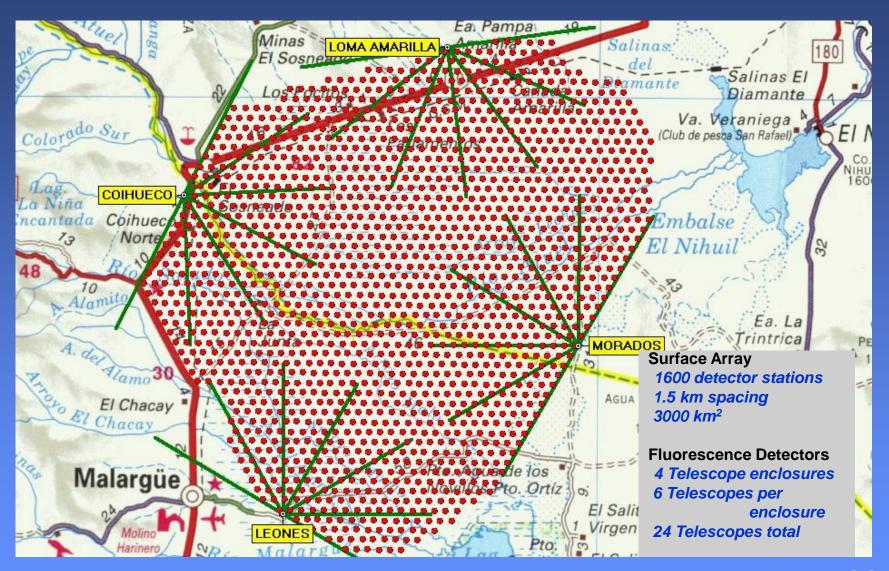




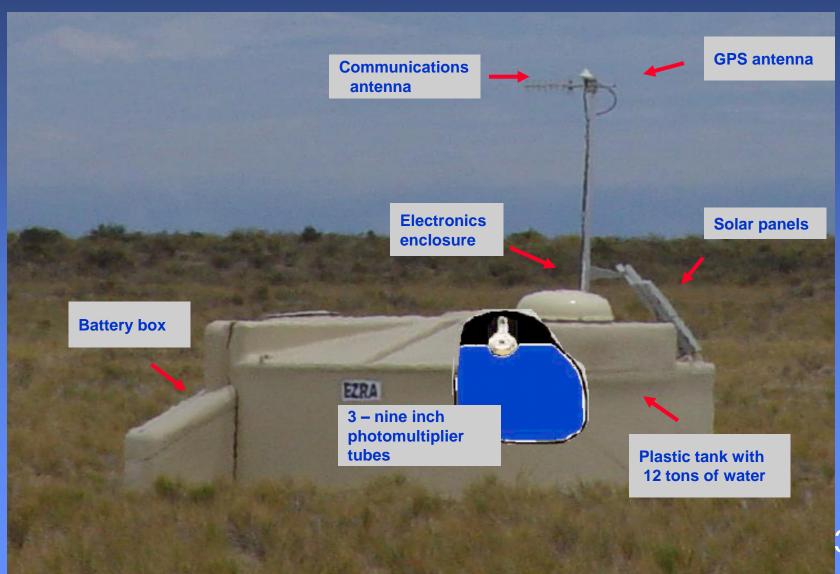
# **Concept to Reality**



### **The Observatory Plan**

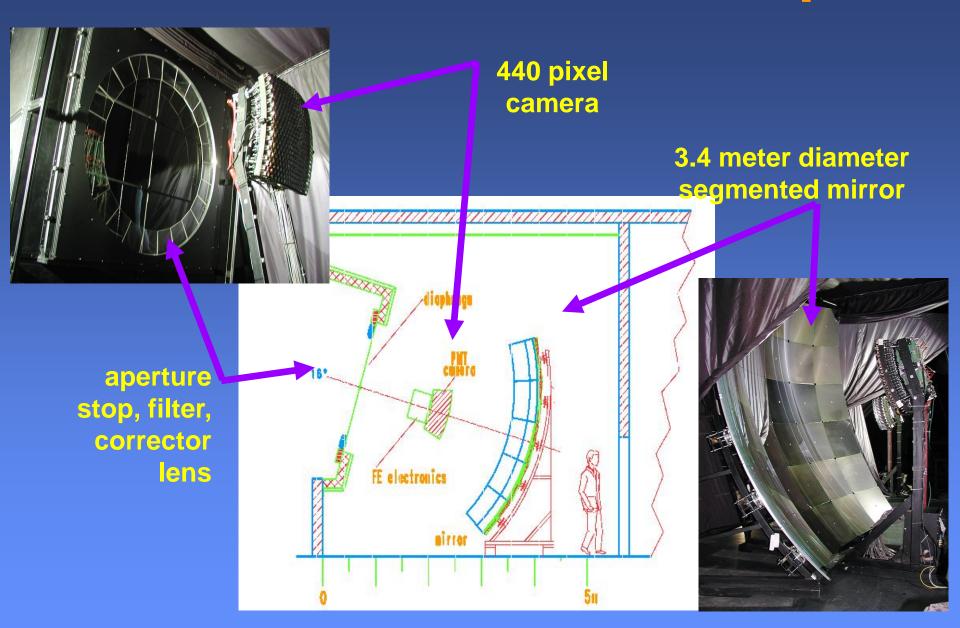


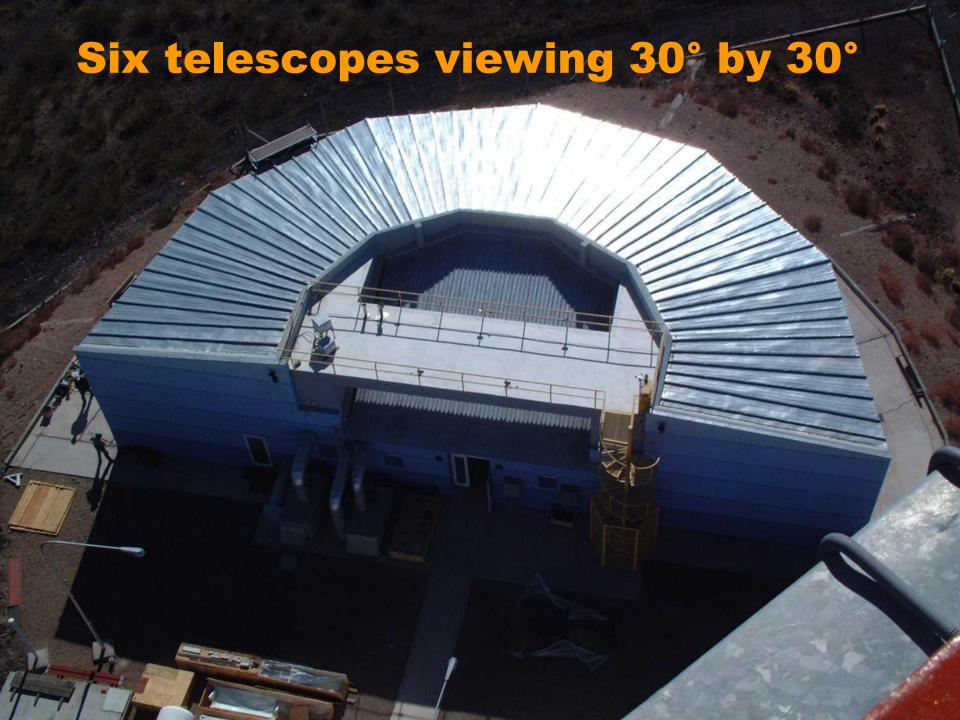
# The Surface Array Detector Station

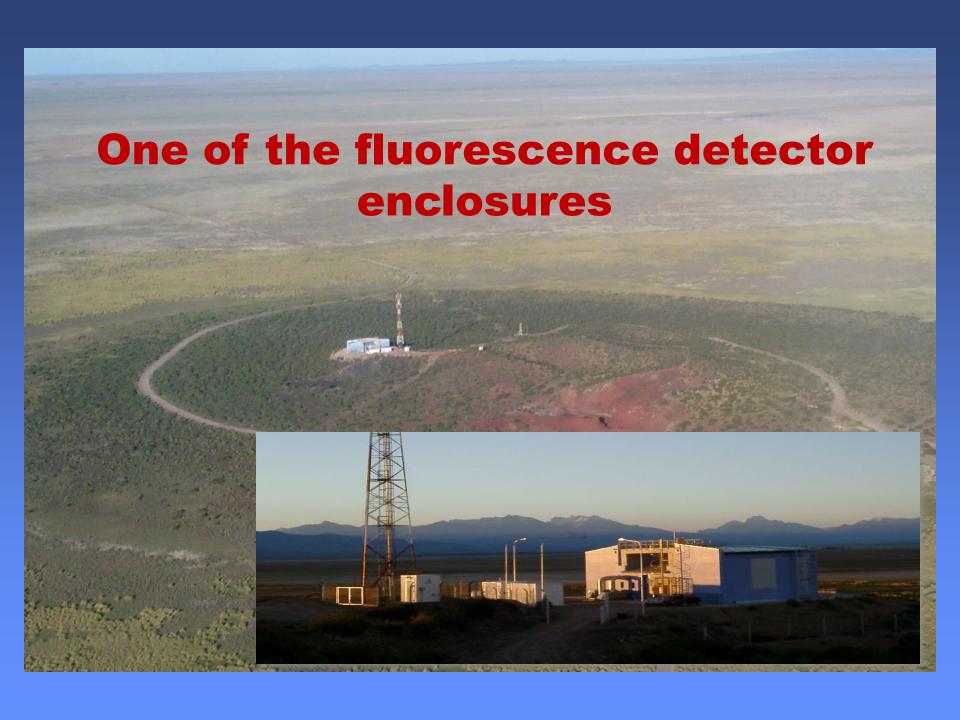




### Fluorescence detector telescopes







# **Deploying the Array**











# Communications



# Not everything went smoothly



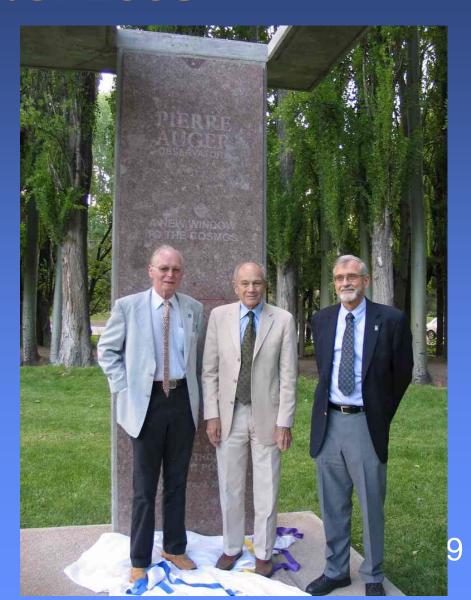
# **Auger Observatory Campus**



# Inauguration November 2008

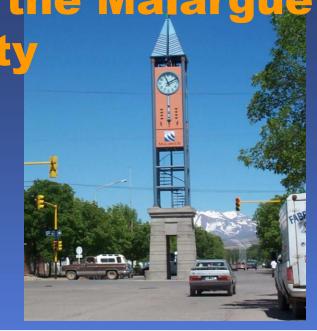






# The Observatory and the Malargüe Community







## **Impact - the Auger Observatory**

Spectrum
Sources
Composition

New directions for future research in particle astrophysics

67 Journal papers
267 PhDs earned, 100 more coming.

Model for international science.

But there is more to come!

The AugerPrime upgrade





### Science Magazine 22 September 2017

RESEARCH

#### COSMIC RAYS

# Observation of a large-scale anisotropy in the arrival directions of cosmic rays above 8 × 10<sup>18</sup> eV

The Pierre Auger Collaboration\*†

Cosmic rays are atomic nuclei arriving from outer space that reach the highest energies observed in nature. Clues to their origin come from studying the distribution of their arrival directions. Using  $3 \times 10^4$  cosmic rays with energies above  $8 \times 10^{18}$  electron volts, recorded with the Pierre Auger Observatory from a total exposure of 76,800 km² sr year, we determined the existence of anisotropy in arrival directions. The anisotropy, detected at more than a  $5.2\sigma$  level of significance, can be described by a dipole with an amplitude of  $6.5^{+13}_{-0.9}$  percent toward right ascension  $\alpha_d = 100 \pm 10$  degrees and declination  $\delta_d = -24^{+12}_{-13}$  degrees. That direction indicates an extragalactic origin for these ultrahighenergy particles.

# Thank you